



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 31 2006

Dear Mr. Markey:

Thank you for your letter of June 19 to President Bush requesting clarification on U.S. policy towards Iran. The White House has asked us to respond on its behalf. We regret the delay in responding.

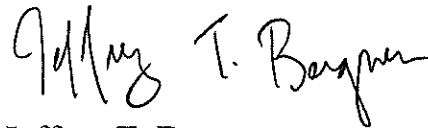
Iran's wanton disregard for the norms of international behavior remains a serious foreign policy concern for the United States and the broader international community. Both the President and Secretary Rice have said that the United States is committed to a peaceful, multilateral, diplomatic resolution to this issue. To give diplomacy its best chance to succeed, Secretary Rice announced on May 31 that if Iran fully and verifiably suspends enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, the United States is willing to become a full party to the negotiations with Iran. However, there has been no serious Iranian response to the offer in the weeks since May 31, and Iran has failed to meet the essential condition set by the P5+1: suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. Accordingly, the P5+1 agreed on July 12 that we would take the matter back to the UN Security Council, where we intend to make suspension mandatory. The P5+1 also agreed that we would work toward a sanctions resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter if Iran fails to comply. Regrettably, Tehran has repeatedly chosen a path of confrontation over peaceful resolution.

We have sought to build a consensus that sends a strong message to the Iranian regime: it must either work on a solution, or become further isolated from the international community. We will continue to work with the international community to seek an end to Iran's efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction, and to counter Iran's support for terrorism in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The Honorable
Edward J. Markey,
House of Representatives.

We hope this response is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us further on this or any matter that concerns you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs